

THE KIRK of Bonnie Brae

April 2026



From Your Pastor

Dear Kirk,

I'm going to say it. And you aren't going to like it.

"Invite them to church."

I know, that is weird. We don't want our friends and our family to think that we are "those Christians."

The ones that insist that if they don't do as we do, and think as we think, they are doomed. It's not that.

Of course, it's not that.

But I really think you should **invite them to church**.

I heard it on a podcast about loneliness: "People need community."

I read in an article about AI, "What is at stake, and what it means to be human is a spiritual question."

I discovered it in arguments about climate change when a scientist said, "The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy, and to deal with those we need a cultural and spiritual transformation."

What we do on Easter or any other Sunday might feel simple, expected, rote.

But it is anything but.

In a world of noise, we hold silence.

In a world of solutions, we value questions.

In a world of individuals, we gather in community.

And so, inviting them isn't really for you; it's for them and for us.

As we try to create a better world.

They might say no, they probably will.

That's ok. **Invite them anyway.**

Love,

Selena



Maundy Thursday, April 2

On Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus gathered with his community, shared a meal, washed feet and experienced betrayal. We will gather with our sister churches for a combined worship service as we remember and engage the events of this night. At 5:30 p.m. all are welcome to a casual time of snacks and community with the service beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Washington Park UCC's **new location: 7150 Montview Blvd.** Their sanctuary is located in the "Bookstore" of the Mosaic Community Campus in Park Hill. Free parking is available a block away at 17th & Quebec, you can click [HERE](#) for a more detailed map. There will be a combined choir singing "Crowded Table." If you would like to join the choir, please arrive by 5:45 p.m. to rehearse.



Easter Sunday! April 5, 10 a.m.

We begin April with an opportunity to fully realize what we have been talking about during Lent, “Tell Me Something Good!” Our service will be full of joy, celebration and song. After worship, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for children, followed by a potluck brunch in the lower level.

As you prepare for Easter, some things to remember:

1. Invite friends! Easter is a great opportunity to welcome friends and family to church with you! Invite them to the Easter Egg Hunt if they have children, and make plans to stay for the brunch afterward.
2. Arrive early and be prepared to welcome our guests!
3. Bring a food item to share, labeled with ingredients for those with dietary restrictions. We will have a potluck after church and want to have enough to feed all visitors as well!
4. If you are able, park on the street to allow space for visitors to use our parking lot.
5. Prepare your spirit for the Joy of Easter by attending the Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 p.m. at Washington Park UCC’s new location.

April Worship at the Kirk

April 5: Easter Sunday! We will celebrate the Good News of Resurrection, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and a Potluck!

April 12: “So I send you,” John 20:19-31
After the resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples, blesses them and sends them out. What does it mean to be the church, to follow the resurrected one in the world we find ourselves? Where are we sent?

April 19: Green Justice Sunday, Acts 2:43-47.
As has been the tradition for the last several years, our Green Justice Team leads the congregation in a theme from Earth Day to Earth Day each year. On this Sunday, we wrap up the Year of Resilience, with reflections from members of the team that will lead into a Year of Walking in Community!

April 26: Where do you get that living water? John 4:5-30
When Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at the well, she asks this bold question we continue to ask: “Where is the living water?” Even when we live a life of faith, we so often thirst for more. And so on this Sunday, we too will ask Jesus to help us find living water.



♥ Tentatively Scheduled Loving Servants

DATE	HOSTS <small>For changes, contact Ellen Campos</small>	COFFEE <small>For changes, contact Lisa Kipp</small>	LAY READER <small>For changes, contact the office</small>
April 5	Ann Karlberg & Robert Bowles	Beth Sherry	Kristin Salada
April 12	Don Zimmerman & Patty Hummert	Erica Thompson	Gwen Wright
April 19	Lee Trujillo-Lopez & Ashley Lopez	Patty Hummert	Green Justice
April 26	Joe & Diane Berry	Beth Sherry	Riss Kostelnick

Children's Ministry Update

We are so blessed by the time and attention our StoryRoom Volunteers give. Please be in prayer for our volunteers and children as we continue with our Volunteer Model for the StoryRoom. Here is our Volunteer Schedule this month:

- **April 5:** Riss Kostelnick, #37 Jesus is Risen
- **April 12:** Ellen Campos, #38 Road to Emmaus
- **April 19:** Ellen Campos, #26 The Leaven
- **April 26:** Ellen Campos, #27 The Great Pearl



Faith Formation & Godly Play: We Need You!



Our Faith Formation Team will meet after worship on **Sunday, April 12**. This team is growing in responsibility as we guide the Kirk's children's ministry. We will look back over our year of Volunteers leading the StoryRoom and look toward the year ahead. If you are interested in helping the Kirk support our ministry to children and youth, please plan to come!

Supporting our Children's Ministry, Summer Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to lead our Children's Church during worship (starting after the Children's Moment through the end of worship) during the summer months. Curriculum will be provided to you for your day well in advance. You can sign up [HERE](#)!



Hope & Home Teddy Bear Clinic, April 11



Come be part of this special event where children in foster care bring their teddy bears to check in at the doctor's office, see a doctor or a dentist, and maybe even go into "surgery" for any little repairs. This event helps these children become more comfortable with medical personnel and practices. If you would like to help set up, take down, or volunteer at the event, please contact Taylor at THeinke@hopeandhome.org.

Have You Considered... Foster Parenting?

Hope & Home is always looking for Foster Parents. If this is something God might be calling you to, feel free to check out their website [HERE](#) for more information.



Youth Ministry Happenings



Confirmation

We have six youth currently on the journey of confirmation: Lyle, Nathan, Emerson, Ila, Tate, and Jojo. Our Confirmands will meet:

- Saturday, April 11, 6-8:30 p.m. Dinner Included.
- Sunday, April 19, 11:30-1 p.m. Writing a statement of belief with Mentors.
- Sunday, May 3, 11:30-1 p.m. Where do you stand? With Mentors!
- Saturday, May 30, *Time TBD*
- Sunday, May 31, Confirmation Sunday!

Youth Group!

All teenagers (and friends) in grades 6-12 are invited to join us on Sunday nights from 6-7:30 p.m. We share a meal together, play games, check in about our weeks and engage in discussion on issues of life and faith! We use the GroupMe app to communicate. You can join that group [HERE](#).

- **April 5:** Easter Sunday, *no Youth Group*
- **April 12:** A Glimpse at the wider church from a Youth Perspective. Ellie Smith, the RMC youth delegate to UCC Synod, will come and share her experience and what she learned.
- **April 19:** What is Progressive Christianity and how do we talk about it?
- **April 26:** Earth Stewardship
- **May 3:** Youth Sunday Prep
- **May 10:** Mother's Day, *no Youth Group*
- **May 17:** 10 a.m. Youth-led Worship Service!



“Be the Kirk!” A Youth Service-Learning Experience!



This summer, Corbin and Laura Tobey-Davis will lead a local youth service-learning experience focused on our own community! Youth who have completed grades 6-12 are invited to arrive at the Kirk at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 26, and stay through Tuesday, July 28, at 4 p.m., playing games, serving our community, sharing meals, and even sleeping! The cost is \$50, please register **no later than May 15** by clicking [HERE](#).

Summer Church Camps at La Foret

Church Camp is a life-changing experience of nature and beloved community. The Kirk is committed to contributing \$325 per child/youth to help with the camp fees from our Kirk's Got Talent fundraiser, as well as from the generous donations of those who have gone before us. If you need additional financial assistance, contact Selena. We are committed to ensure every child who wants to attend, is able.



Registration is open, please click [HERE](#).

- **Explorer Camp** is July 5-11 for those entering grades 3-6.
- **Voyager Faith and Science Camp** is July 12-18 for those entering grades 6-8.
- **MADD (Music Arts Dance Drama) Camp** is July 12-18 for those entering grades 9-12.

DIG Deeper

Faith Formation Hour



Beginning April 12, we will be reading Howard Thurman's "[Jesus and the Disinherited](#)," a book that inspired Dr. King's work in the Civil Rights Movement. Rev. Otis Moss III, senior pastor of Trinity UCC in Chicago, said this: "No other publication in the twentieth century has upended antiquated theological notions, truncated political ideas, and socially constructed racial fallacies like *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Thurman's work keeps showing up on the desk of anti-apartheid activists, South American human rights workers, civil rights champions, and now Black Lives Matter advocates."

All are welcome to join the conversation!

- **April 5:** Easter Sunday, *No Gathering*
- **April 12:** Chapter 1: Jesus an Interpretation
- **April 19:** Chapter 2: Fear
- **April 26:** Chapter 3: Deception
- **May 3:** Chapter 4: Hate
- **May 10:** Chapter 5: Love
- **May 17:** Reflections and Summer Discussion

Children ages 6-17 are invited to dig into the Bible with Rev. Davidson on Sunday, April 12 and 19 at 9:00 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY EVERY TUESDAY @ 1.00 PM

IN THE KIRK'S OFFICE & ON ZOOM

Conversations with Scripture

- Casual atmosphere
- Join in or just listen
- Share insights and questions!



Memorial Service for Nancy Jepson



For many years in the life of the Kirk, it was Nancy who hosted events and welcomed the Kirk to gather together in community. On Saturday, April 18, we will celebrate Nancy's life at 11 a.m. in the Kirk sanctuary. Following the service, Nancy's children, Sarah and John DeMouly, are inviting everyone to their home to share stories and gather as community. As the Kirk often provides desserts for memorial services, we are asking those Kirk folks planning to attend to bring a plate of cookies to share. Let Selena know if you can help out this way. Nancy's obituary can be read here:

[Remembering the life of Nancy Jepson.](#)

Saturday, April 25th

Do you have a flickering lamp, a favorite necklace you can't wear, a chair with a broken rung, or a favorite garment with a hole? The Helping Hands Repair Cafe (HHRC) is back again! This will be our third Repair Cafe at [First Plymouth Church](#). Each time we host these cafes, they seem to grow in size and in popularity! Recently, the HHRC has launched its own website. If you would like more information about the Repair Cafe, sign up your broken items for repair, or volunteer to help, you can find everything you need on our new website [HERE](#). We are so grateful that this dream of helping our communities is continuing to grow! If you would like a flyer that you can forward to others, please click [HERE](#).



MDA Spring Meeting



The Metro Denver Association (MDA) of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ is having their Spring Meeting! This event will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Salem United Church of Christ, [5300 E. Florida Avenue](#). Childcare and lunch are provided! Everyone is invited to join us for a time of vibrant worship, community, art, and learning. They are excited about the opening plenary session, which will include a panel discussion around Middle East justice led by Rev. Dr. Tracy Hughes of Mountainview United Church. You can click [HERE](#) for the flyer, which has all the information including registration and the agenda.

Take a Sack, Bring it Back!

On the **third Sunday of every month**, the Kirk Mission Team puts out grocery bags with a list of Metro Caring needs. We ask that you bring these back the last week of the month, when people especially need food. We can all help out the Kirk way—together!



Sabbatical Team Update

From June 8 to August 31, 2026, Selena will be on Sabbatical. Rooted in the word Sabbath, this is a covenantal time of rest and connection with God that is offered to our clergy every five years. Selena is approaching her 12th year at the Kirk, and this will be her second sabbatical during that time. Over these 12 weeks, both Selena and the Kirk will engage in “Walking toward Wisdom” as we move toward God and community, both literally and figuratively.

The Sabbatical Planning Team has been working diligently over the past year. We have secured wonderful preachers for each Sunday, and recruited strong spiritual leaders from within our congregation to serve as Care Team leads—keeping folks connected to the church and offering support and prayer as needed during this time. Each Kirk household will be contacted by their Care Team leader before the Sabbatical begins.



We are still looking for volunteers for the following roles:

- Contact person for Metro Denver UCC Pride and our Combined Worship.
This involves being added to the Metro Denver Association contact list, writing newsletter articles and informing the office as details come out.
- Point Person for Children’s Ministry.
This involves being the person to call if the schedule needs to be revised, and ensuring that needed resources are available.
- Liturgists to offer prayers and the Children’s Moment when we have guest preachers.
- Volunteers to sign up to lead Children’s time in the lower level (see the sign-up on page 3).

If you have questions, ideas, like to volunteer to lead a Care Team, write a reflection on “walking” for the Newsletter over the summer, lead our PRIDE engagement, or support in other ways, please reach out to us.

The Sabbatical Planning Team

Donna Furman, Lisa Kipp, Cam Short-Camilli, Emily Snow, Sharon Snyder, Rev. Selena Wright



Saturday, May 9

Every Spring and Fall, we gather Kirk folks to do some much-needed cleaning, organizing and maintenance on our building. We will gather on Saturday, May 9, from 9-12 p.m. to prepare our building for the Spring Season!

There are several jobs that need to be attended to, including organizing closets, deep cleaning both kitchens, cleaning gutters, and more. If you are unable to attend on May 9th, a list will be out so you can sign up to complete a job at a different time. Our building needs all of us to keep it in good shape for ourselves and all the members of the community who use our building.

Moderator's Report, by Lisa Kipp

April, Easter, and Spring are all times of renewal. We have recently sprung the clock forward, warmer weather has come a bit earlier than usual for Denver, and I have started a 'new year around the sun' myself. Much of our last council meeting was about hopes and dreams for the Kirk, and who will lead these dreams?



We read about distributive leadership and discussed various leadership teams. Our first year of Kirk members leading the story room for our Children's Ministry was successful, if a bit piecemeal. A strong Faith Formation or Christian Education team is still a goal for the Kirk.

A Social Justice team is often brought up.... there is just so much need! The Sabbatical team is working hard to be ready for Selena's time away. The Green Justice team continues to thrive!

Do you want to get more involved at the Kirk? You don't have to do it alone; there is a team waiting for you! Are you ready to spring forward?!

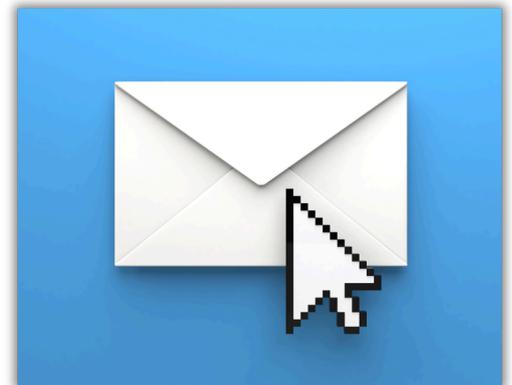
Yours in Service,

Lisa Kipp



Sign Up for Action Alerts

As part of our commitment to Social Justice, we offer Action Alerts to notify you when you can act on Colorado legislation or other events that need the community's support to advance Social Justice. These notifications will be forwarded from our Justice Partners: Together Colorado, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado and Colorado Faith Communities Against Gun Violence. Please see the sign-up sheet when you enter the church, or notify the office if you would like to be added to these lists. Actions range from sending emails to legislators to invitations to testify at rallies or participate in other events.



Connect Online



- Click [HERE](#) for Worship livestreams.
- Click [HERE](#) for DIG, Conversations with Scripture and other ZOOM meetings.

Did you know you can connect to the Kirk anytime through our social media presence? Follow the Kirk on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube and share what inspires you with your friends and followers!



An Easy & Free Way to Give!

Remember for every King Soopers reward purchase you make, if you have selected the Kirk as your option, a portion comes to the church. Setting this up is easy!

Step 1 Log in to your online King Soopers account

Step 2 Search “Community Rewards”

Step 3 If you are not currently enrolled, search for Kirk of Bonnie Brae, and when you see it click enroll. Then log in to your account as much as you want to see how much of your grocery bill is coming to the Kirk. For more detailed King Soopers instructions, click [HERE](#).

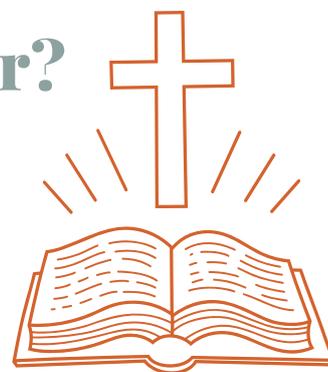


Coffee & Community

Thanks to a generous gift, we have a new, simple to use Coffee Maker! Each Sunday, a volunteer comes early to make coffee (following a set of instructions in the lower level kitchen) and also brings a treat for after church, and then cleans up. Thank you SO much to all who volunteer to create this space for us to visit and build community. We are looking for sign-ups for the spring! You can sign up [HERE](#).

Would You Like to Be a Lay Reader?

If you enjoy scripture, we invite you to become a Sunday Lay Reader. Don't let any fear of public speaking hold you back; the warm smiles from the congregation at the Kirk make it an incredibly rewarding experience! You will receive the scripture in advance, along with a guide for preparing a brief Stewardship Moment. To sign up, please add your name to the sheet in the Narthex or contact the office to secure your spot.



- Youth Sunday, May 17
- Confirmation Sunday, May 31
- Pride Sunday: June 28
- All UCC Combined Worship: July 26
- Animal Blessing: 10 a.m. Saturday, September 19
- Women's Retreat: October 2-4, at La Foret

Kirk Birthdays

1st Lisa Kipp
2nd Nina Severns
3rd John Strick
3rd Michalina Kriescher
5th Joe Berry
5th Nancy Johnson
6th Gwen Wright
10th Jennifer Smith
17th Heather Goetsch
21st Katherine Salada
22nd Jeannie Mitchell
24th Pat Mitchell
28th Corbin Tobey-Davis
29th Barclay Davis
30th Casey Kipp
30th Evan Cooke



If we have missed your birthday, please let us know by emailing kobb@kirkofbonniebrae.org.